William (Bill) Murtagh

Program Coordinator
National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Bill Murtagh currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) in Boulder, Colorado. Bill is NOAA's space weather lead in coordinating preparedness and response efforts with industry, emergency managers, and government officials around the world. Bill also serves as the National Weather Service lead in the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), interagency committee to develop and implement actions in the 2019 National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan (NSW-SAP). He is the co-chair of the interagency space-weather working group responsible for implementing the NSW-SAP plans and procedures for responding to and recovering from space weather events. Bill is NOAA's lead in the National Security Council interagency committee responsible for the development and implementation of Executive Order 13865 - Coordinating National Resilience to Electromagnetic Pulses.

In November 2016, he completed a 26-month assignment in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as the Assistant Director for Space Weather. In his position at OSTP he oversaw the development and implementation of the 2015 National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan and coordinated efforts to develop Executive Order 13744 (2016) – "Coordinating Efforts to Prepare the Nation for Space Weather Events".

He regularly briefs the White House, Congress, and other government leadership on vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to space weather storms. Bill is also a key contributor in U.S. government efforts to advance international cooperation in space weather-related activities. He is a regular guest speaker at universities, government agencies, and national and international conferences. He has provided numerous interviews to major media outlets and is featured in several documentaries on space weather.

Before joining NOAA, Bill was a weather forecaster in the United States Air Force. He coordinated and provided meteorological support for national security interests around the world. Bill transferred to the SWPC in 1997 as a space weather forecaster and liaison between NOAA and the U.S. Air Force. He joined NOAA in 2003 after retiring from the Air Force with 23 years of military service.